

Donation Used Violins to Jamaica.

Last spring, Mrs. Suzanne Allicock, the mother of one of my cello students, Victoria Allicock, asked me if it would be possible to have used violins from TERI donated to the National Youth Orchestra (NYOJ) in Jamaica. Mrs. Allicock, whose husband is the Ambassador at the Jamaican Embassy in Japan, explained to me how the NYOJ has applied the El Sistema Method to nurture the NYOJ orchestra members.

El Sistema is a free classical music program that started in Venezuela that uses music to encourage the healthy growth of young children. And using the Suzuki Method learning system and books has made a great contribution to the progress of El Sistema. The NYOJ started in Kingston, the capital city of Jamaica, in 2009. Since this time it has been developing, however they always have a shortage of instruments for the children.

* National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica, <http://nyoj.org>

Mrs. Allicock was working on a way to raise instrument donations in Japan and asked me if I could offer any support. In order to proceed with her idea, I asked the TERI office about the possibility of donating violins, and I was fortunate to find that 21 donated violins and bows were still at TERI. These were donated when I served as Chairman of the Grand Concert about 20 years ago. At that time, I asked the Suzuki members throughout Japan to donate used violins and bows to support an ISA project. The ISA office was at TERI in Matsumoto and one of the projects was to repair violins and ship them to Suzuki members abroad who needed violins.

These violins and bows are in need of repair. However, at the present time, it is difficult for us to bear the repair charges. Therefore, I asked Mrs. Allicock if it was possible for her to accept the violins as they are. If so, we could donate them right away. She then contacted the director of NYOJ in Jamaica and received a response that a violin maker in Miami visits Jamaica regularly. So, it would be possible for them to be repaired if they were sent as they are.

After I got permission from Mrs. Hiroko Suzuki, ex- President, I collected the donated violins from the TERI office and brought them to Tokyo. On June 15, along with the Tokyo staff, I gave these violins and bows to Mr. Ricardo Allicock, Ambassador of Jamaica.

Photo:001:Donated Instruments,Photo:002:Donated violins and bows at the Tokyo office.



Photo 001



Photo 002

In September, I received a letter from the Ambassador that explained that the instruments had arrived in Jamaica safely. I will let you know as soon as I receive the photos of the members of the National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica with these violins.

Photo: 003: thanks letter from Ambassador, 004: Ambassador and his daughter at the 2016 Concert at the Ochanomizu Center, 005: stage rehearsal of 2016 Concert.



Photo 004



Photo 005

(Photo:003)



*Embassy of Jamaica
Tokyo*

Ref: 7/05/6

30th September, 2016

Mr. Yoshihiko Terada
President
Talent Education Research Institute,
Ochanimizu Center School
Surugadai Sky Building 3F
2-3-16 Kandasurugadai
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 181-0062

Dear Mr. Terada,

On behalf of the Embassy and people of Jamaica and the National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica (NYOJ), I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to you and Talent Education Research Institute (TERI) for your recent, generous donation of 21 violins and bows to the Embassy of Jamaica. They may be previously used but will breathe new life into the existences of the students who will receive them!

These instruments will be transported to Jamaica for the purpose for assisting the NYOJ in its mandate to enhance the lives of children in challenged, underprivileged communities of Jamaica through exposure to classical music and training in playing related instruments. This social development initiative has already reaped considerable results in Jamaica but, the greatness of the need means that there remain many willing students who simply need an instrument to begin changing their lives. TERI's donation will certainly help to improve the lives of deserving, potential young musicians in Jamaica and, in this way, your organization is also assisting in the strengthening of the warm and wonderful relationship which already exists between our two countries.

Please be assured that the Embassy will keep you abreast of the worthwhile use to which these instruments will be put and will facilitate the delivery of photographs to you once the violins are delivered to the deserving students .

Again, thank you for your tremendous thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity through the facilitation of this donation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.P. Ricardo Allicock'.

C.P. Ricardo Allicock
Ambassador

After making this donation, I was thinking back as to how these donations from TERI members about 20 years ago have given children in the world.

In 1997 instruments were presented to the Ambassador of Argentina at the official residence of Argentina Embassy, as well as to the wife of the Mexican President at the Government Guest house when she visited Japan as a national guest. Also, in 1999, the instruments were donated to the Panama Embassy, and in 2009 to participants at the World Convention in Matsumoto.

I think that increasing the chance for children to touch musical instruments is one of the ideas of the Suzuki Method for “improving circumstances”. Since Japan is the birthplace of the Suzuki Method, we are very proud to be able to have this kind of cooperation with children abroad.

I would greatly appreciate your support for a long time and report as above.

Yoshihiko Terada

Cello teacher in the Tokyo area